

Cup defeat may be a blessing in disguise

JUST for a split second on Saturday, Wycombe Wanderers seemed to be set on the road to a repeat giant-killing act over Bournemouth in the F.A. Cup.

That moment occurred in the eighth minute of their first round tie played in front of a crowd of about 5,000 at Loakes Park. Neat play by Tony Price and Steve Long had put Terry Glynn in the clear.

The Wycombe striker did nothing wrong, firing the ball goalwards with his left foot. Just for one instant the ball appeared to be heading goalwards but then it struck the long legs of Bournemouth keeper Kenny Allen and was eventually turned for a corner.

A few minutes later Steve Massey gave Bournemouth the lead against the run of play and from then on Wanderers were struggling to stay afloat as persistent rain turned parts of the pitch into a quagmire.

Strength

Wycombe did, however, have a fair share of the play — they forced one more corner than their opponents — and strung together some good moves.

But the Fourth Division side's strength in the tackle and ability to break quickly was to prove more effective in the conditions.

Goals in the 44th and 77th minutes by Trevor Morgan, who played in the Leytonstone side that had won at Loakes Park on the first day of the season, sealed a comfortable win.

The scoreline did not do justice to Wycombe's display and the Isthmian League side were outplayed rather than outclassed.

The great perk of an F.A. Cup run is that it can turn into something of a money spinner — and Wycombe will certainly welcome the revenue from the attendance of 4,768 which even so was 2,500 down on the second round encounter six years ago.

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they lost 8-0 and were duly relegated. But they have bounced back this season and stand level on points with the Blues. Their superior goal difference puts them third.

Away form

This will be Wycombe's 14th home game out of 23. So the key to their championship challenge will rest on their away form with a tough programme to come.

They suffered no casualties on Tuesday night and must be favoured to beat Bromley, who

have not won on the ground since 1966. Wanderers' unbeaten record, in that case, would be extended to 13 league matches.

Wycombe will know next Tuesday whom they will meet in the first round of the F.A. Trophy to be played on Saturday, January 10. The final qualifying round is tomorrow.

As far as the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup is concerned, the second round replay will take place at Aylesbury on Tuesday. The teams drew 2-2 in the first encounter at Wycombe last week.

BERGER Isthmian League						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Dagenham	25	11	9	5	51	35 42
Enfield	23	11	8	4	47	29 41
Bromley	21	10	6	5	39	28 36
Wycombe	22	10	6	6	36	27 36
Harrow	23	10	5	8	42	28 35
Slough	18	9	7	2	25	15 34
Sutton	20	9	7	4	37	29 34
Dulwich	22	7	9	6	34	31 30
Leyton's	19	8	4	7	36	31 28
Barking	25	8	6	11	35	46 28
Woking	23	8	3	12	28	38 27
Hitchin	19	7	5	7	26	21 26
Tooting	22	7	5	10	24	30 26
Boreham Wd	19	6	7	6	27	33 25
Hayes	19	7	4	8	17	24 25
Walthamst	20	7	3	10	19	31 24
Staines	21	6	5	10	23	31 23
Croydon	20	4	10	6	17	19 22
Harlow	20	5	7	8	25	31 22
Leatherhead	24	4	10	10	17	26 22
Carshalton	19	7	1	11	26	39 22
Hendon	20	5	5	10	24	31 20



F. A. Cup review

Jacobs stuns Hayes with 40 yard cracker

By MIKE ALLEN: Wycombe Wanderers

THREE well taken goals, including one remarkable effort from 40 yards, were the highlights of an otherwise disappointing Berger Isthmian League match at Loakes Park on Tuesday when, for the first time in three meetings this season, Wycombe got the better of Hayes.

The match started so brightly for Blues, who put Saturday's memories behind them with a second minute goal. Steve Long used all his skill and balance to beat three defenders before slipping the ball past Paul Priddy.

Wycombe were undoubtedly the better team during the first period and in rare flashes tore the Hayes defen-

ce apart. Holifield beat player after player in one move which took him from the wing to the middle edge of the penalty area.

Just as it looked as if he had met his match, Dell was on hand to shoot at goal, an effort which went narrowly wide. Then Long put a Jacobs cross against the top of the cross-bar to round off a brilliant move.

Bookings

But for all their early efforts Wycombe then saw Hayes equalise. The ball was given away in midfield and Graham Drake took the opportunity to shoot. Lester had the shot covered but it took a deflection off Hardwick and went in.

Shortly after the goal, the first of seven names went into referee Mr Bishop's

notebook. Mick McGovern was shown the yellow card when he argued over a corner decision.

As if they had not learned their lesson Hardwick and Graham Drake soon joined McGovern when they had a frank exchange of views.

On a day when the referee made almost as many notes as I did, two more players were booked before the interval. No list of bookings this season would be complete without George Borg and at the same time Gary Smith's name was recorded for posterity.

In the middle of all these bookings came Jimmy Jacobs' magnificent 40 yard goal which gave Wycombe the half-time advantage.

Borg, with the ink barely dry in the referee's book for what looked a hard but fair tackle, sent a high ball to

past
Crott

past
Crott